

IN THE CLAIMS

PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing a personal media service, the method comprising:

presenting a user with a selection of pre-defined channels of dynamic, episodic content;

storing media content of at least two pre-defined channels provided by a remote publisher in a local cache prior to a selection by the user;

receiving input from the user specifying a custom channel as a combination of at least two pre-defined channels of [[said]] the selection; and

making the custom channel and both of the at least two-predefined channels provided by the remote publisher immediately available for playback from the local cache notwithstanding a connection state of the personal media service.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising playing back interleaved media content of the at least two pre-defined channels that have been combined into the custom channel.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the user with a selection of pre-defined channels includes displaying a list of the pre-defined channels.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received input includes icons dragged from the list representing the first and second pre-defined channels to a screen area used to configure the custom channel.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein content from the first and second pre-defined channels are given substantially equal time during playback.

6. (cancelled)
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the pre-defined channels includes user owned content.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the pre-defined channels includes content broadcasted via the Internet.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the pre-defined channels includes content broadcast via airwaves.
10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said pre-defined channels of said selection comprises web text converted to speech.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending information specifying content of the custom channel via a network.
12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting media content of the local cache to a remote location via a network upon receipt of authentication information from the remote location.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - developing information specifying a media content type to be recorded based on user input;
 - monitoring content of one of the pre-defined channels;
 - analyzing the content to capture a content identification signature; and
 - recording the content for later playback only if the content identification signature indicates correspondence to the media content type.

14. (currently amended) A method for providing a personal media service, the method comprising:

presenting a user with a group of pre-defined channels of dynamic, episodic content, wherein content corresponding to the group of pre-defined channels is stored in a local cache prior to selection by a user;

accepting a user selection of at least two of the pre-defined channels;

interleaving supplemental media content with media content of the at least two selected pre-defined channels; and

caching the selected supplemental media content along with the two pre-defined channels to make the cached media content available for immediate playback notwithstanding a connection state of the personal media service, wherein playback of media content of a first one of the selected pre-defined channels is interspersed with the supplemental media content.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein playing back media content includes:

maintaining a pointer within the supplemental media content; and

playing a portion of the supplemental media content at selected points within the media content of the first selected pre-defined channel, wherein the selected points are determined by the pointer.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving information about user preferences from the user; and

selecting the supplemental media content based on the user preferences.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising playing the second selected channel interspersed with the supplemental media content after playing the first selected channel interspersed with the supplemental media content while continuing to advance through the supplemental media content.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein selecting the supplemental media content includes a selection based on a current location of a portable device.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the location of the portable device is determined using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

20. (currently amended) A method of providing a personal download media service, the method comprising:

receiving a series of preferences from a user;

applying rules to the preferences to identify a list of pre-defined channels available to the user;

displaying the list of pre-defined channels to the user, each of the pre-defined channels providing dynamic, episodic content; and

locally caching at least two of the pre-defined channels prior to selection by the user so that either of the cached pre-defined channels is available for immediate playback notwithstanding a connection state of the personal download media service.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

playing back media content of at least one of the pre-defined channels; receiving a command from the user to skip a portion of the media content;

skipping the portion of the media content;

resuming play back of the media content; and

transmitting information indicating skipped portion of the media content to a remote monitoring site.

22.-45. (cancelled)

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received user input includes a mouse click indicating selection from the list representing the first and second pre-defined channels.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein playing back media content includes:

maintaining a pointer within the media content; and

playing a portion of the supplemental media content at selected points within the media content of the first selected pre-defined channel, wherein the selected points are determined by the pointer.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein playing back media content includes:

maintaining a pointer within meta-tag associated with the media content; and

playing a portion of the supplemental media content at selected points within the media content of the first selected pre-defined channel, wherein the selected points are determined by the pointer.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the supplemental media content includes an advertisement.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

playing back media content of at least one of the pre-defined channels;

measuring play back of supplemental media; and

transmitting information indicating play duration of supplemental media to a remote monitoring site.

51. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising transferring the custom channel to a portable device for playback when the personal media service is in an offline state.

52. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising transferring the cached media content to a portable device when the personal media service is in an offline state.

53. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising transferring the cached content to a portable device when the personal download media service is in an offline state.